

From Sen. Bieda



**Poison Control Center**

Hutzel Building  
4707 St. Antoine  
3rd Floor/Suite 302  
Detroit, MI 48201


May 21, 2012

Dear Michigan Legislators:

As the Director of the Children's Hospital Poison Control Center, I am writing to support SB 421, which will require the addition of a bittering agent to highly concentrated antifreeze products. In 2011, we had 39 exposures from animals, usually dogs, with three being fatal. This is likely under-reported as there is no mandate to call the poison center, and some pet owners will call an animal-specific poisoning center. A single swallow of antifreeze is sufficient to be deadly to a child or pet. While the bittering agent does not prevent the first swallow, it will prevent larger ingestions in more than 75% of victims. Dogs often ingest larger amounts, and cats are exposed by licking themselves. The bittering agent, therefore, will prevent serious poisonings in animals and possibly humans.

It is my belief that SB 421 will be beneficial to both humans and animals in Michigan.

Sincerely,

  
Susan C. Smolinske, PharmD, DBAT  
Director, Children's

MICHIGAN  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY

May 9, 2012

MAY 14 2012

Berman Center for  
Animal Care in Westland  
900 N. Newburgh  
Westland, MI 48185  
734.721.7300

The Honorable Senator Mike Kowall  
Chair, Senate Economic Development Committee  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Kowall and Honorable members of the Economic Development Committee;

Detroit Center for  
Animal Care  
7401 Chrysler Dr.  
Detroit, MI 48211  
313.872.3400

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is the state's largest animal sheltering organization and also one of the largest in the nation. As a private nonprofit operating three busy animal care centers, three veterinary care centers, seven satellite adoption centers, and nationally-recognized cruelty investigation and emergency rescue teams in the metropolitan Detroit area, we assist tens of thousands of dogs, cats, and other animals annually. MHS accepts animals regardless of health condition, breed, or adoptability. Our constituency represents thousands of pet owners statewide. According to a respected recent nationwide survey, 62% of U.S. households own pets, and the safety of those pets is a significant concern.


Rochester Hills  
Center for Animal Care  
3600 W. Auburn Rd.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
248.852.7420

We are writing at this time with regard to Senate Bill No. 421, which would mandate that antifreeze sold in Michigan contain a bittering agent. Sadly, we have seen numerous cases of antifreeze poisoning over our 135-year history. Pets are attracted to the thick sweet fluid that leaks out of automobiles onto driveways and other surfaces or is otherwise kept in unsecured locations. Antifreeze can be deadly when ingested resulting in irreversible kidney failure. MHS strongly supports SB 421 which would mandate a bittering agent be added to antifreeze sold in Michigan, rendering it less palatable, and thereby safer.

Administration  
30300 Telegraph Rd.  
Suite 220  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025  
248.283.1000

We appreciate you taking up this important bill, and hope that the members will support its passage out of committee.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Fisher, DVM  
Vice President of Veterinary Medicine  
Michigan Humane Society

Cc: Honorable Senator Steve Bieda

1-866-MHUMANE  
www.michiganhumane.org



**SUPPORT SB 421**

September 26, 2012

Dear Michigan Legislators,

Those of us who have dedicated our profession and efforts in the world of animal care and sheltering fully support SB 421, which will require the addition of bittering agent to highly concentrated products.

As the Executive Director of Humane Society of West Michigan, I implore you to support this action. We had a "real life" situation last winter at our facility. Our contracted snow removal company had a leak that left antifreeze in our parking lot, in the path of where our volunteers and staff walk all of our shelter dogs. Once we learned about the spill, we banned our animals from being exercised by this area and went into full-scale clean up. We were fortunate that none of our animals tasted the antifreeze, as you know, it is sweet to smell and taste for animals as well as humans. And, Legislators, it can take ingesting less than a teaspoon to result in death.

Not only are animals at risk in being tempted to taste antifreeze, so too are our children. Hundreds of children are accidentally poisoned each year by ingesting antifreeze. By adding a bittering agent to antifreeze, children or animals may ingest a very small amount upon first taste. Once a child or an animal taste bitterness, they will likely not ingest any more antifreeze, thus saving their lives.

Seventeen other states have recognized the value of adding bittering agents to antifreeze. It is my hope that Michigan will join this group who have recognized the value of this antifreeze safety statute by voting in support of SB 421.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trudy Ender".

Trudy Ender

Executive Director

Humane Society of West Michigan

3077 Wilson Drive NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49534



Where the broken road ends...

*in love*

Chris Buckley, DVM  
Humane Society of West Michigan  
3077 Wilson NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534  
[cbuckley@hswestmi.org](mailto:cbuckley@hswestmi.org)  
(616)791-8218

May 30, 2012

The Honorable Steve Bieda  
PO BOX 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Senate Bill 421

Dear Senator Bieda:

As a shelter veterinarian, I have seen firsthand how antifreeze is used maliciously to poison and kill animals. Perhaps even sadder, I have seen cases of the beloved family pet accidentally killed by antifreeze left out in the garage or driveway. It takes less than a tablespoon to kill a cat or small dog, so a small radiator leak in the driveway can be potentially fatal. Unlike most other toxic substances, animals prefer the sweet taste of antifreeze and are unaware of the fatal consequences.

The addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze would eliminate both accidental and intentional poisoning of animals. Ethylene glycol (the toxic ingredient in antifreeze) damages the kidneys causing the animal to die from kidney failure within a week after ingestion. Treatment is expensive and unless caught early is rarely successful. By requiring a bittering agent in antifreeze we could greatly reduce unnecessary animal suffering in our great state of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Chris Buckley, DVM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Buckley".



September 25, 2012

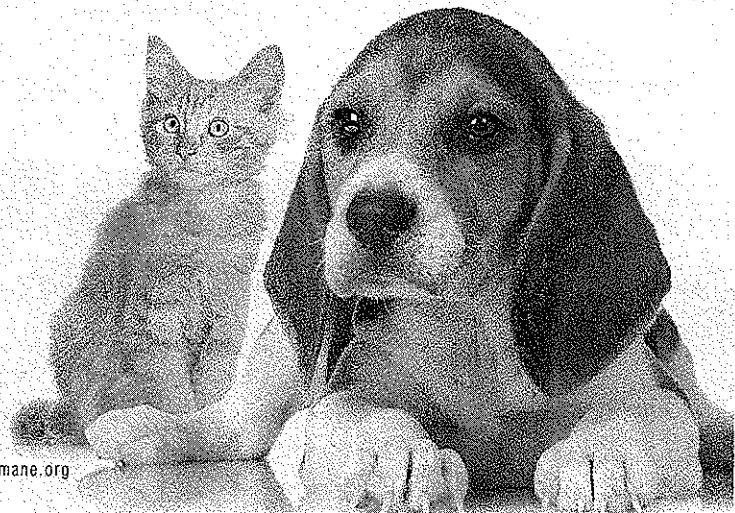
Dear Michigan Legislators:

I am the Director of the Kalamazoo Humane Society. A position I've held for 25 years. Over those many years I've had several calls from pet owners asking for assistance with emergency veterinary care for their pets because of suspected or actual anti-freeze poisoning. In some situations the poisonings were accidental; a cat licking up anti-freeze from a car that overheated or a dog that chewed through an anti-freeze container in the garage. On other occasions anti-freeze was used by disgruntled neighbors to get back at a pet's owner who let their cat(s) out or who had a dog that barked too much.

I urge you to support SB 421. This bill would require that engine coolant/antifreeze that is more than 10 ethylene glycol to contain denatonium benzoate, the world's bitterest known substance, to render it unpalatable. I believe this will be an excellent tool to help prevent pet or human poisonings from anti-freeze in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Aaron Winters  
Executive Director



May 31, 2012

Senator Steve Bieda  
State of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Support SB 421, "Stop Antifreeze Poisoning"

Dear Senator Bieda,

The Kalamazoo Humane Society respectfully asks that you give your support to SB 421, known as "Stop Antifreeze Poisoning"; important legislation to protect children and animals from accidental poisonings.

Hundreds of children and thousands of animals – including companion animals and endangered species – are accidentally poisoned each year from ingesting antifreeze. One veterinary survey estimates that as many as 90,000 dogs and cats are poisoned by antifreeze ingestion each year.

**Antifreeze is sweet – and deadly.** Most antifreeze contains 90-95 percent ethylene glycol, a substance that is attractive to children and pets because it has a sweet smell and taste. Ethylene glycol is highly-toxic and can cause nausea and vomiting, depress the central nervous system, cause fluid build-up in the lungs, heart failure, kidney failure, seizures, coma, and death. **Less than a teaspoon can be fatal.**

**Antifreeze is dangerous for children and animals.** Children and animals come into contact with antifreeze through containers that are not tightly sealed or discarded carelessly, leaks on driveways, spills along the road, on boat ramps, and in wildlife areas where ATV and 4-wheel drive vehicles are permitted. Animals have been known to chew through sealed containers to drink the antifreeze. Unfortunately, antifreeze has also been used to intentionally poison pets.

**Adding a bittering agent will help make antifreeze safer.** SB 421 would require engine coolant/antifreeze that is more than 10 percent ethylene glycol to contain denatonium benzoate, the world's bitterest known substance, to render it unpalatable. This legislation will help reduce the number of childhood emergencies and save countless animal lives at the cost of only 2-3 cents per gallon.

Denatonium benzoate has been used in many household products including nail biting prevention, liquid soaps, shampoos, rubbing alcohol, nail polish remover, animal repellents, solvents, paints, and varnishes. It is not known to pose any long-term health or environmental risks.

**National health organizations support antifreeze safety laws.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Veterinary Medical Association, The Pet Food Institute, The American Association of Poison Control Centers, the American Medical Association, the National Safety Council, and the American Journal of Public Health all recommend adding an aversive agent to antifreeze and/or support legislation.



**17 states, including Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, have enacted antifreeze safety statutes.**

On behalf of the caring citizens in Kalamazoo County and across our state, we ask that you please lend your support and vote in favor of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

The Kalamazoo Humane Society

Aaron Winters  
Executive Director

Kristin Goodchild  
President of the Board

Heather Hilgart  
Vice President of the Board

Karen Arvanigian  
Secretary of the Board

Mike Wittenberg  
Treasurer of the Board

Peter Kushner  
Board Member

Ken Lanphear  
Board Member

Anthony Sinkula  
Board Member

Bette Zawacki  
Board Member

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## KRISTIN GOODCHILD

602 Parchmount Avenue ▪ Parchment, Michigan ▪ 49004  
Phone/Cell: 269.547.0059 ▪ Email: kristin.goodchild@gmail.com

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May 31, 2012

Senator Steve Bieda  
State of Michigan  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Support SB 421, "Stop Antifreeze Poisoning"

Dear Senator Bieda,

As a citizen of the State of Michigan, I ask that you give your support to SB 421, known as "Stop Antifreeze Poisoning"; important legislation to protect children and animals from accidental poisonings.

Hundreds of children and thousands of animals – including companion animals and endangered species – are accidentally poisoned each year from ingesting antifreeze. One veterinary survey estimates that as many as 90,000 dogs and cats are poisoned by antifreeze ingestion each year.

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On behalf of the caring citizens in Kalamazoo County and across our state, I ask that you please lend your support and vote in favor of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Kristin Goodchild



**Members:**

Christine's Critter  
Cafe and Rescue

Faithful to Felines

Golden Years  
Alaskan Malamute  
Rescue

Heaven Can Wait

The Humane  
Society of the  
United States

Humane Society &  
Animal Rescue of  
Muskegon County

Noah Project

Pay It Forward  
Outreach

Pound Buddies

Timeless Pets

West Michigan  
Spay & Neuter  
Clinic

Wolf Song  
Enterprises, LLC

**Testimony:** Supporting SB 421  
**Committee:** Senate Economic Development  
**Date:** September 27, 2012  
**On behalf of:** Our members and volunteers

Dear Members of the Senate Economic Development Committee:

The Lakeshore Pet Alliance is a coalition of Muskegon County animal shelters and animal rescue organizations that formed in 2009 to create an environment for its members to share ideas, information, and resources. Our goal is to enable our members and volunteers to save more animal lives and to make Muskegon County a safe and humane place for animals and people. We believe that the passage of SB 421 will help to reduce animal suffering in our county and across Michigan.

A veterinary survey estimates that as many as 90,000 dogs and cats are poisoned by antifreeze ingestion each year. Children and animals come into contact with antifreeze through leaking or discarded containers, or spills on driveways or roads. Unfortunately, antifreeze has also been used to intentionally poison pets.

Most antifreeze contains 90-95 percent ethylene glycol, a substance that is attractive to children and pets because it has a sweet smell and taste. Ethylene glycol is highly-toxic and can cause nausea and vomiting, depress the central nervous system, cause fluid build-up in the lungs, heart failure, kidney failure, seizures, coma, and death. *Less than a teaspoon can be fatal.*

Adding a bitter chemical to antifreeze sold in Michigan will help reduce the number of childhood emergencies and save countless animal lives at the cost of only 2 to 3 cents per gallon.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Veterinary Medical Association, The Pet Food Institute, The American Association of Poison Control Centers, the American Medical Association, the National Safety Council, and the American Journal of Public Health all recommend adding an aversive agent to antifreeze and/or support legislation.

The Lakeshore Pet Alliance therefore asks you to pass SB 421 to better protect Michigan's children and pets. On behalf of all our members and volunteers, thank you so much for your time.

Becky Gawkowski, Co-Chair  
beckygov@aol.com

Rachel Morr, Co-Chair  
Cell: (269) 355-4288  
rachel@lakeshorepetalliance.org

**[www.LakeshorePetAlliance.org](http://www.LakeshorePetAlliance.org)**



Dan Skopec  
Acting Secretary

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Executive Office

Tam M. Dodge, Board Chair  
1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5615  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
Fax (916) 341-5621 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

May 15, 2006

Ms. Sara Amundson  
Deputy and Legislative Director  
Doris Day Animal League  
227 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 100  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4963

Dear Ms. Amundson:

### ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DENATONIUM BENZOATE ON WATER QUALITY

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding California's experience to date with requiring the addition of the bittering agent denatonium benzoate to ethylene glycol-based antifreeze (Business and Professions Code Section 17582). Specifically, you asked whether there have been any adverse effects on water quality arising from the use of this additive since the law went into effect in 2002.

Even though it is regarded as the bitterest known substance, to date we are unaware of adverse impacts to California's water supplies arising from the use of denatonium benzoate in antifreeze and a variety of other products.

Please contact me at the above-referenced phone number, or by email at [ccantu@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ccantu@waterboards.ca.gov) should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Celeste Cantú  
Executive Director

prevent death, not all human victims recover because not all ingestions are accidental.

Ethylene glycol antifreeze is also used in murders and suicides.

### **Denatonium benzoate**

The good news is that, unlike many of the issues we grapple with, this one has a ready solution. DDAL certainly considers safety caps, seals, and public education necessary. However, three states and several other countries have chosen to employ an additional tool, which is requiring the addition of denatonium benzoate (DB) to antifreeze that is sold directly to the consumer.

Denatonium benzoate is one of the bitterest substances known and available to us. In 1963, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the addition of DB to cosmetic and toiletry products, including nail polish, hair spray, and cleaners, as a safety mechanism to deter children from ingesting them. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (27 CFR 21.76) currently requires that all industrial alcohol-based products contain a bittering agent and specifically requires the use of DB in certain products as a denaturant, making the product unpalatable. The addition of the bitterant has not compromised the usefulness of the products.

Requiring the addition of DB to ethylene glycol antifreeze destined for the consumer retail market has the potential to save thousands of animal lives and prevent hundreds of children from being sent to emergency rooms each year. DDAL strongly urges your support of this small, common-sense measure, literally costing pennies per gallon, to achieve significant, beneficial results.

It is true that data on the efficacy of DB are not abundant, and that data exist on both sides of the question. That being said, however, there is evidence of its usefulness in preventing or mitigating ingestion of substances by children and animals.

For example, in its memo supporting *West Harlem Environmental Action v. U.S. EPA*, the Natural Resources Defense Council<sup>6</sup> wrote: "...EPA claims that it revoked the bittering agent requirement because of efficacy concerns, but EPA's own analysis disproves these concerns. Before requiring the safety measures, EPA reviewed scientific studies on denatonium benzoate, a possible additive and 'the bitterest substance known to man.' EPA 0113I. A field study of a rodenticide containing 10 parts per million of this bittering agent resulted in a '95% reduction in rodent activity.' *Id.* The same level of bittering agent in different household products 'was found to reduce the amount ingested by children.' *Id.* This record evidence supports the conclusion that a bittering agent can effectively control rats and deter children's exposure."

In 1963, the FDA approved the addition of denatonium benzoate to cosmetic and toiletry products as a safety mechanism to deter children from ingesting these products. It is used in hundreds of products to render them unpalatable, including cleaning agents, other household products, cosmetics, and personal care products—everything from detergents and aftershave to fire extinguisher fluid, gasoline, pesticides and herbicides, ink, wax crayons, nail polish remover, bubble bath, hair spray, and eyeshadow. It is even in veterinary sprays and ointments. In 1989, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved it for food plant use.